

How Much Have New York Dairy Farmers Lost Because of USDA Mismanagement?

New York's dairy farmers have lost millions of dollars as a result of the US Department of Agriculture's failure to properly implement a dairy price support program required by law for Class III and Class IV milk used for butter and cheese. According to the program, the USDA is supposed to buy excess milk products on the market to keep prices from dropping below \$9.90 per hundredweight, effectively guaranteeing a minimum price for dairy farmers' milk. The supported farm price for milk protects farmers from price declines that might force them out of business and shields consumers from seasonal imbalances of supply and demand.

Unfortunately for New York dairy farmers, the USDA has been asleep at the switch. The Class IV price for milk used to make butter and nonfat dry milk has been below the support price five times in 2003. By allowing the support price to drop below \$ 9.90, the USDA has cost American dairy farmers \$342 million since 2001, according to the National Milk Producers Federation. The cost to New York dairy farmers has been approximately \$25.4 million, or about \$3,400 per farm. ***For a county-by-county breakdown of dairy farm losses around New York since 2001, please see the following report.***

The Capital Region: *There are 818 dairy farms throughout the Capital Region, which have lost approximately \$2.76 million since 2001 because of low milk prices resulting from USDA mismanagement.*

County	Diary Farms	Total Loss
Albany	20	\$67,460
Rensselaer	92	\$310,316
Schenectady	4	\$13,492
Saratoga	53	\$178,769
Fulton	57	\$192,261
Montgomery	262	\$883,726
Schoharie	120	\$404,760

Washington	210	\$708,330
Capital Region	818	\$2,759,114

***Central New York:** There are 1,041 dairy farms throughout Central New York, which have lost approximately \$3.5 million since 2001 because of low milk prices resulting from USDA mismanagement.*

County	Diary Farms	Total Loss
Oneida	390	\$1,315,470
Oswego	91	\$306,943
Madison	254	\$856,742
Cortland	182	\$613,886
Onondaga	124	\$418,252
Central New York	1,041	\$3,511,293

***Rochester and the Finger Lakes:** There are 886 dairy farms throughout Rochester and the Finger Lakes, which have lost approximately \$3 million since 2001 because of low milk prices resulting from USDA mismanagement.*

County	Diary Farms	Total Loss
Cayuga	169	\$570,037
Seneca	89	\$300,197
Yates	199	\$671,227
Ontario	119	\$401,387
Wayne	82	\$276,586
Monroe	25	\$84,325
Livingston	84	\$283,332
Schuyler	30	\$101,190
Tompkins	89	\$300,197
Finger Lakes	886	\$2,998,478

The Hudson Valley: *There are 299 dairy farms throughout the Hudson Valley, which have lost approximately \$1 million since 2001 because of low milk prices resulting from USDA mismanagement.*

County	Diary Farms	Total Loss
Westchester	0	\$0
Rockland	0	\$0
Putnam	0	\$0
Dutchess	34	\$114,682
Ulster	8	\$26,984
Sullivan	52	\$175,396
Orange	103	\$347,419
Greene	40	\$134,920
Columbia	62	\$209,126
Hudson Valley	299	\$1,008,527

The North Country: *There are 1,911 dairy farms throughout the North Country, which have lost approximately \$6.4 million since 2001 because of low milk prices resulting from USDA mismanagement.*

County	Diary Farms	Total Loss
Warren	0	\$0
Essex	20	\$67,460
Clinton	168	\$566,664
Franklin	234	\$789,282
Hamilton	0	\$0
Herkimer	229	\$772,417
Jefferson	373	\$1,258,129
Lewis	333	\$1,123,209
St Lawrence	554	\$1,868,642
North Country	1,911	\$6,445,803

The Southern Tier: There are about 1,350 dairy farms throughout the Southern Tier, which have lost approximately \$4.55 million since 2001 because of low milk prices resulting from USDA mismanagement.

County	Diary Farms	Total Loss
Delaware	212	\$715,076
Otsego	315	\$1,062,495
Chenango	298	\$1,005,154
Broome	73	\$246,229
Tioga	116	\$391,268
Chemung	33	\$111,309
Steuben	283	\$954,559
Allegany	20	\$67,460
Southern Tier	1,350	\$4,553,550

Western New York: There are 1,214 dairy farms throughout Western New York, which have lost approximately \$4.1 million since 2001 because of low milk prices resulting from USDA mismanagement.

County	Diary Farms	Total Loss
Orleans	38	\$128,174
Genesee	117	\$394,641
Wyoming	245	\$826,385
Erie	150	\$505,950
Niagara	52	\$175,396
Cattaraugus	334	\$1,126,582
Chautauqua	278	\$937,694
Western New York	1,214	\$4,094,822

Source: Analysis by Schumer's office based on data from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, and the 2000 New York State Dairy Statistics Annual Survey produced by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.